









## POLITICAL EPOCHS.

## REVOLUTIONS IN THE POLITICAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

## The Oscillations Which the Political Pendulum Has Made Within the Past Century.

There have been many changes in the politics of the executive branch of the Government in the hundred years which have passed since the nation's existence began under the Constitution. All of them involved a complete revolution in the policy under which public affairs were conducted. Each of these changes form a conspicuous landmark in the political vista—each constitutes a well-defined epoch in the country's history.

The changes referred to are here termed revolutions. The term is correct, although used in a different sense from that for which it stands in European minds. They involved no change of dynasty, and, except in one instance, produced no social or political cataclysm. They were merely a transfer of power from one body of citizens to another, and were contemplated by the men who formed the Constitution, as well as brought about by agencies created by the nation's great charter itself.

## PEACEFUL REVOLUTIONS.

How, when and by whom these revolutions wrought? The question may seem to be a small one. In reality, however, it is large, and the answer to it involves consideration of the history and policy of the political parties which have arisen during the country's existence and the record of the country's leading statesmen and publicists. The answer, in fact, will be a resume of the political life of the nation from the beginning.

Party, in the present sense, was unknown in this country until a dozen years after the close of the war for independence. During that struggle the Whigs were those who sought separation from Great Britain, and the Tories were those who opposed it. The Tories, however, sometimes applied to the divisions into which the people of the colonies were thrown. Whig then was only another name for patriot, and Tory simply a euphemism for traitor.

The debate in the Convention which framed the Constitution revealed a difference in sentiment as to the strength and scope of the authority to be granted the Government. Those who favored a strong central Government, with the powers and prerogatives of the States relatively restricted, came to be called Federalists, while those who took the opposite ground, and desired decentralization, with the States relatively strong and independent, were called as Anti-Federalists.

The Federalists, realizing the inappropriateness of their party name any longer, dropped it, and soon after became known simply as Democratic-Republicans, and then as Republicans.

The leading Federalists were Washington, Hamilton and Adams. The most conspicuous Republicans were Jefferson, Madison and George Clinton. A few words will be necessary right here to prevent misunderstanding. The term Republican, applied to party, as used during the first quarter of this century, had a widely different meaning from that which it has conveyed for the past thirty-five years. This fact must be made plain now.

Party names die, but principles are eternal. The Federalists of 1789-1816, the Loose Constructionists of 1817-26, the National Republicans of 1826-32, the Whigs of 1833-53 and the Republicans of 1854-89 favor a strong central government, a broad interpretation of the Constitution, an adequate protective tariff and liberal internal improvements. The Republicans of 1796-1823, the Strict Constructionists of 1824 and the Democrats of 1825-89 opposed all those. This is the touchstone by which party identity must be determined. Here is the line of descent along which party lineage must be traced.

Here is the broad line of demarcation which has separated the parties from the beginning of the Government. Unless this distinguishing mark is kept clearly in mind the nomenclature of political parties will be misleading and unsatisfactory. If those men were living and retained the views which they held during the time in which they were a power in the country, Washington, the Federalist of 1789, John Quincy Adams, the Loose Constructionist of 1817, and the Whig of a subsequent period, would be Republicans now; while Jefferson, the Republican of 1796, Jackson, the Strict Constructionist of 1824 and the Democrat of a later era, would be Democrats to-day.

Three Federalist Presidents. The Federalists triumphed in the first three Presidential elections. There was no opposition to Washington in either 1788 or 1792, while that against John Adams, who was chosen President in 1796, was overcome. This was the last triumph of the Federal party in a National canvass.

In 1800 the day of doom came for the Federalists. President Adams' policy to France partially antagonized Hamilton and a large section of the party. This alien and sedition laws—the former of which authorized the President to send out of the country all foreigners whose conspiracies might embroil the Government in foreign war, and the latter of which forbade conspiracies against the Government and all publications designed to bring it into disrepute, repelled many Federalists, and correspondingly strengthened the Jeffersonians. These influences defeated Adams in his attempt to secure re-election in 1800, and put Jefferson in the Presidential chair.

First Political Revolution. The election of 1800 was the first political revolution which the country had known. For twelve years the Federalists had been in control of the executive branch of the Government. In their management of public affairs they had been wonderfully successful. They had put the wheels of Government in motion, devised a system of finance which, although largely untried, has remained in vogue to the present day, and marked out lines along which public business will undoubtedly be conducted for centuries to come. In constructive ability the Federalists have never been equaled except by the Republicans during the civil war period of 1861-65. The party, however, lacked discipline and coherency. Adams' want of tact, Hamilton's imperiousness, and the petty jealousy which each felt toward the other, made its defense by the Jeffersonians in 1800 a comparatively easy task.

After its first reverse the wreck of the Federal party soon became complete. Adams' retirement upon his defeat in 1800, the killing of Hamilton by Burr in a duel four years later, thus depriving the party of the services of two of its most illustrious chieftains, and the unpatriotic attitude which it took in the War of 1812, finished the business for the Federalists. They never won an election after that of 1796, and with the close of the Presidential canvass of 1816, the party collapsed.

The Federalists were defeated and discredited, their teachings, in some degree at least, were repudiated, and the political pendulum swung in the opposite direction.

For nearly a quarter of a century the Jeffersonians had no difficulty in retaining power. From 1800 onward, for election after election, their sway was virtually undisputed. Practically speaking, each President named his successors. Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, each was chosen for two terms, the latter for his second term.

In the election of 1820, at which only one electoral vote was cast against Monroe, party lines were obliterated. The Federal party had been dead three years, and the Jeffersonians, or Republicans—that is to say, the Democrats of that day—finding nobody to combat, began to lose the incentive for exertion which opposition all but brings.

Elements were gathering coherency and force, however, which were destined to defeat the all-powerful Jeffersonians. Although the Federal party died soon after the canvass of 1816, the principles for which it stood were revived. The remnants of the Jeffersonians began to call themselves Loose Constructionists in 1817, and Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams later became their leaders. This party favored the Federalists' policy, as well as the National Republicans, Whigs and Republicans afterwards did, a free interpretation of the Constitution. The opposite party, or Jeffersonians, eventually became known for the time being, as the Strict Constructionists. These were the party designations when the lines were drawn in the Presidential canvass of 1824.

The Federalists in Power Again. In the national campaign of 1824 the political pendulum took another swing. The motion had not the momentum nor did it extend so far as that of the year 1800. But it was a swing, and it was back toward the ground which had been occupied by the old Federal party. The Jeffersonians were defeated after an unintermitted spate of twenty-four years in the control of unbroken control never before in duration except by the Republican party of a later day, in its exercise of power from 1860 to 1884.

The year 1824 marked the second political revolution in the country's history. There was no union on Presidential candidates by either party in 1824. The Loose Constructionists were divided on John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay for President, and the Strict Constructionists were similarly divided on Andrew Jackson and William H. Crawford. Jackson obtained 99 electoral votes, Adams 84, Crawford 41 and Clay 37. No candidate having a majority, the election was thrown into the hands of the Representatives, when Clay transferred his support to Adams and elected him.

The period of the sway of the Jeffersonians, like that of the dominance of the Federalists, had been stirring and glorious. In the twelve years of Federal rule the population of the country had grown from 3,000,000 to 5,300,000, and the number of States had been increased to sixteen by the admission of Kentucky, Vermont and Tennessee.

In the twenty-four years of the power of the Jeffersonians the population of the country doubled, the area of the country was largely increased by the big Louisiana purchase and the acquisition of Florida, and the number of States grew to twenty-four. In the elevation of Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Alabama, Maine and Missouri to Statehood. Within the days of Jeffersonian supremacy, also, the second war against Great Britain was fought and the Missouri compromise adopted.

The duration of the rule of the Loose Constructionists was short, lasting only four years. The Adams and Clay factions of the party had in the meantime united, taking the name of National Republicans.

"Old Hickory" to the Front. In 1828 the political pendulum took one more swing, this time, as in 1800, in the direction of Jeffersonianism. By this time the Jeffersonians—the men who first called themselves Republicans and afterward Strict Constructionists—began to be known as Democrats, and that is the partisan name which they have borne ever since.

The campaign of 1828 was largely personal, as that of 1824 had been. It was a canvass of abuse, slander and falsehood, compared with which those of 1880, 1884 and 1888 were dignified and respectable. The vilest and most atrocious accusations were brought against Adams, the candidate of the National Republicans, and Jackson, the Democratic standard bearer, the falsity of which has often been exposed since then, but which had an influence upon the result.

To President Adams himself was largely due the responsibility for his own defeat for re-election. Many of the most influential Federal officials were secretly in favor of his opponent. Adams knew this, and yet, with a noble self-sacrifice and devotion to public interests which clung to him throughout his whole public career, he sunk the politician in the patriot and refused to remove them on personal grounds. They performed the duties of their posts acceptably, therefore they were left undisturbed to employ the patronage of the Government against the Government's enemies. He was even more conspicuously lacking in tact than his father, the second President, had been. His rugged and unyielding honesty repelled many of his warmest admirers. He made no compromises with conscience. He scorned the petty artifices of the mere party worker. To retain a friend or conciliate an enemy he would not turn a hair's breadth from the course which his judgment marked out. All this was of no avail, however, for Adams was not altogether lost sight of in the contest of 1828, and Jackson's victory was a triumph for the cause of the Democracy as well as a personal conquest for "Old Hickory" himself.

Third Political Revolution. The Democratic victory of 1828 was the third political revolution which had been brought about in the Executive branch of the Government. For the twelve years following that party retained control of public affairs, choosing Jackson to the Presidency for a second time, in 1832, and sending Van Buren, his political heir, to the White House in 1836.

Within the twelve years of Democratic supremacy, beginning in 1828, a great deal of history was made. The National Republican party, which was born in 1826, secured its defeat in the Presidential canvass of 1832, when by Clay, and the Whig party was built upon its ruins. In 1832 the Anti-Masonic party appeared in the national canvass, with William Wirt as its Presidential candidate. The organization opposed the election of Masons to office. In other respects its principles were the same as those of the National Republicans of that year and of the Whig party, which was born in 1833. The Anti-Masons, as a party, never took part in another canvass, but united with the National Republicans in forming the Whig organization.

This is a summary of the changes in party names and organization which took place between 1828, when the Democrats entered power under Jackson, and 1840, when they went out of power under Van Buren.

Within the period named several new issues were injected into politics. Jackson's opposition to the national bank scheme was the pet project of the Democrats, and the extension of the tariff and internal improvement idea were the leading questions advanced by the Whigs.

Four other important events occurred also within the twelve-year period of Democratic rule beginning in 1828. The nullification movement in South Carolina culminated in 1832, which brought down the power of the Government against that State; national delegate Conventions for the nomination of Presidential and Vice-

presidential candidates came into being for the first time; the distribution of the surplus in the treasury among the States in the form of a loan was begun in 1836, and a financial crisis more disastrous than any which the country knew before or has known since occurred in 1837, and had great influence in politics by strengthening the anti-slavery sentiment of the country, and thus aiding the foes of the Democratic party.

Arkansas and Michigan—the first in 1836 and the other in 1837—were the only States admitted in the twelve years of Democratic rule ending in 1840.

## THE WHIGS VICTORIOUS.

The year 1840 saw the fourth oscillation of the partisan pendulum. The victories which the Democracy gained in 1828, 1832 and 1836 were for less sweeping and complete than the defeat which it suffered in 1840. This was the second National canvass in which the Whig party appeared, and the second time in which William Henry Harrison had been the candidate of the party. The party, however, had not united on him in 1836. Hugh L. White, Daniel Webster and Willie P. Mangum also having been supported by the Whigs in that year. The victory of the Whigs in 1840 was due, primarily, to the blunders of the Democrats, inspired by Jackson, in their attacks on the United States Bank, which produced the great panic of 1837. Personally, Van Buren was opposed to this policy, and foresaw the madness of following it up, but even when he was President Van Buren weakly allowed Jackson to do his thinking for him in this matter, and paid the penalty in the defeat which sent him to private life in 1840, and which kept him there.

But the Whigs' hold on power was of short duration. The death of Harrison, which took place just a month after his inauguration, sent Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency. Tyler, although elected by the party on most partisan steps, the conduct led the Cabinet to question, and produced the demoralization among the Whigs which was one of the factors in bringing about their defeat in 1844.

## THEN THE DEMOCRATS WIN.

The annexation of Texas touched the popular heart. The Democrats favored it, and the Whigs opposed it. This was the principal issue in the canvass of 1844, and on it the Whig party was defeated and the fifth political revolution in the country's history achieved.

Although the Democrats stood for an idea in 1844 which was popular with the masses, Clay undoubtedly would have been elected had he not written a certain private letter on the annexation question intended to conciliate the South. In the letter he said he was not opposed to Texas annexation in itself, with or without slavery, but objected to it when it was connected with Mexico. The letter was published in the North as well as the South. It is doubtful if it won many votes for him in the Southern States, but it is certain that it repelled thousands from him in the North. It drove enough anti-slavery Whigs to New York over to James G. Birney, the Presidential nominee of the Liberal party, to give that State to James K. Polk, the Democratic candidate, and made him President.

The duration of the Democratic sway, which began in 1844, was as short as that of the Whigs, which opened in 1840. It ended in 1848 by another Whig victory.

The principal events of the four years of Democratic power under Polk were the Mexican War, the immense acquisition of territory which resulted from it and the admission of Florida, Iowa, Texas and Wisconsin to Statehood.

## THE SIXTH REVOLUTION.

The Whig victory in 1848 was the sixth revolution which had been achieved in the Executive branch of the Government. This triumph had been gained by a policy of evasion. The party was hopelessly divided on the slavery question. In the hope of gaining power, therefore, it selected a citizen of a slave State, Zachary Taylor, who was unopposed, and in no political record to explain away, and who adopted no platform. But even this shuffling and trickery would not have availed the Whigs, had not aid come at an opportune time and from an unexpected quarter. The Democrats, the National Convention having nominated Lewis Cass, thus slighting ex-President Martin Van Buren, the latter "got even" by accepting the nomination of the Free Soil party, bringing over to New York to the organization the Barnburner element of the Democracy, which opposed the extension of slavery into the Territories. This gave the State to Taylor, and made him President.

This for the second time had the vote of New York been cast for a national canvass. The four-year periods of power which came in with the Whigs in 1840, and continued with the Democrats when they won in 1844, remained with the Whigs when they gained a victory in 1848. The Whigs went out once more in 1852, and never appeared again in a national canvass.

The principal events of the last four-year period of Whig power were the passage of the Clay compromise measures, including the fugitive slave law; the beginning of the rush to the newly-discovered gold mines of California, the admission of that locality to Statehood, and the death of Calhoun, Clay and Webster, the great triumvirate of American statesmen.

Among the most conspicuous of the statesmen which the Whig party produced, apart from the men which that organization sent to the Presidency, were Clay, Webster, Thomas Corwin, John J. Crittenden and Thomas Corwin, each of whom had been Cabinet officers. In the Whig days, also, the abolition movement, the leading spirits of which were William Lloyd Garrison, Gerritt Smith and Wendell Phillips, spread over most of the Northern States.

THE DEMOCRATIC RULE FOR EIGHT YEARS. When the Democrats went into office in 1852, thus achieving the seventh of the partisan revolutions which had occurred since the beginning of the Government, they remained in for eight years, a longer period than any party had held sway since the same organization acquired power in 1828, under the lead of Jackson.

Stirring events occurred during the eight years beginning with March 4, 1853, in which the Democratic party was in power during the Administration successively of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. That period witnessed the death of the Whig party, the beginning and the end of the Know Nothing movement, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the birth of the Republican party, the election of a Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives (Banks), the campaign against the Mormons, the border wars in Kansas, and the admission of Minnesota, Oregon and Kansas to Statehood. The Whigs of this period stand out in startling prominence. These are the dastardly assault on Charles Sumner by Congressman Preston S. Brooks, of South Carolina, for denouncing the Democrats in the Senate for the "crime against Kansas," the invasion of Harper's Ferry by John Brown and his execution, the split of the Democratic party into two factions, the election of Abraham Lincoln President, and the passage of secession ordinances by most of the slave States.

## THE REPUBLICANS RULE TWENTY-FOUR YEARS.

The eighth political revolution, that which took place in 1860, stands conspicuous on the record of the partisan upheavals which have occurred in the executive branch of the Government. In that year the Whigs, the Democrats and the Know Nothing movement in South Carolina culminated in 1862, which brought down the power of the Government against that State; national delegate Conventions for the nomination of Presidential and Vice-

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## WIT AND HUMOR.

## FUNNY THINGS FOUND IN THE WEEKLY PAPERS.

## Light Reading for Those Who Would Laugh and Grow Fat.

"Sweet and low"—A lump of sugar on the floor.—*New York Journal.*

A noodle is most apt to find himself in the soup.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

There are a good many cases of a salt in admiralty courts.—*Burlington Free Press.*

Bolt-making seems to be the favorite occupation among politicians this year.—*Columbus Dispatch.*

There is a town in Arizona called "Aching Tooth." It ought to grow, because there is nothing to stop it.—*Rochester Post-Express.*

A Jersey City undertaker advertises that he furnishes "every requisite for a funeral." He must be a doctor as well as an undertaker.

She—"If you attempt to kiss me I'll call mamma." He—"All right, call her! I'd rather kiss two than one." Then I guess I won't call her.

A woman always seems to wear the largest hat she can find at night; a man wears the largest hat he can get in the morning.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

Teacher—"Do you know the difference between right and wrong?" Boy—"Naw." "If you were to take your little brother's cake from him, what would you do?" "Eat it up."

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?" "I'm going to your employer's, sir." "What?" "I don't get much salary, my pretty maid." "Then I won't marry you, sir," she said.

Teacher—"How is a young lady to act when she is alone on the street?" Rosebud—"She must look around every once in a while to see if any handsome young fellow is following her."

"Why do you look so sad, Miss Ethel?" "Sister Helen is going to marry Tom Barry." The worthless young reprobate! No wonder you are sad. "Oh, it is not that; I wanted him myself."—*Life.*

"Mamma, at the Ponce de Leon hop last night Mr. De Rich asked me to be his wife." "Of course you accepted him?" "Of course—but he began so queerly." "How?" "He asked me if I loved him."—*Puck.*

New Yorker—"I congratulate you on the latest acquisition to your family. Boy or girl?" Nebraska—"Naw." "What's her name to be?" "Well, she howls so much nights we thought we'd call her Cydonia."—*Epoch.*

"Excuse me, Mr. Brown," said the haberdasher, "but this is a quarter necktie you have selected; you always wear a dollar one." "That's all right, old boy," he returned, with a wink; "my wife has just started making a crazy quilt."—*Judge.*

Mrs. Reelass—"I have selected this bonnet, Frank. Isn't it a beauty, and only \$13?" Frank (hurriedly)—"Thirteen dollars?" My dear, it is an unlucky number. You must think of paying that for a bonnet. Try one of those \$5 beauties."—*London Citizen.*

Mother—"That young man seemed to be very affable last night. Did he propose before he left?" Daughter—"No, he didn't propose exactly, but he blew rings of tobacco smoke, and he must have been thinking of engagement rings, or something of that sort."

Smith—"The most modest lady in the world lives in Boston." Jones—"What makes you think she is the most modest lady in the world?" "I just guess so. In my opinion she is the most modest of the works of male authors, and a separate one for female authors."

Wiggins (looking at the results of his wife's shopping)—"Well, I suppose we may be able to make use of some of this stuff some day, but where are the shoes you said I had needed?"

"Bless my heart, I forgot them! I spent all day at the bargain counter, you know."—*Texas Siftings.*

Mr. Dummell—"You'll pardon me for taking advantage of a secluded corner, my dear Miss Bristow, but I want to ask you a question. Miss Bristow, do you ever get a sudden?" Mr. Dummell—"I know I'm a bit abrupt, but I want to inquire as to the best time to find your father at home. He owes our firm for that last block of stock, you know."—*Judge.*

Gentleman (in Chicago gun store)—"I want a pistol." Dealer (politely)—"Yes, sir. Here is a small, plain weapon, usually bought for defense against footpads. Here is a silver-mounted beauty, very popular for shooting sweethearts; and here, sir, is our best stock of full-jawed, gold-plated, all the rage now for shooting wives."—*N. Y. Weekly.*

Wife (time, midnight)—"Pretty time of night for you to come home—and in such condition, too?" Husband—"My dear, it's (hic) only Friday. I stopped in at a zemi-chroscopic society rooms and, m'dear, I looked at some water in microscope, m'dear—the water we drink, m'dear—and sure 'z live, m'dear, I saw it full of snakes. M'dear on me! 'Zhe 'em yet!"—*New York Weekly.*

Jeweler—"You say you want some name engraved on this ring?" Young man—"Yes, I want the words 'George to my dearest Alice,' engraved on the inside of the ring." "Is the young lady your sister?" "No, she's the young lady to whom I am engaged." "Well, if I were you I wouldn't have George to his dearest Alice," engraved on the ring. "If Alice goes back on you you can't use the ring again." "What would you suggest?" "I would suggest that the words be 'George to his first and only love.' You see with that inscription you can use the ring half a dozen times. I have had experience in such matters myself."—*Texas Siftings.*

George—"Eh? You got engaged last night? Gus, my old, my dear friend, tell me how you did it." "Gus—Really, I hardly know myself. Couldn't help it. Just like falling downstairs. I was on the edge of a proposal, she gave me a push and there I was—engaged." "Well, I haven't had any such experience. Every time I try to start my knees knock together and my teeth chatter and my tongue cleaves to the roof of my mouth. I've tried a dozen times to pop the question to Miss De Pine, and slumped every time." "And did she let you slump?" "Yes." "You are courting the wrong girl!"—*Harper's Weekly.*

Miss De Pink (trying to get the conversation into a pleasant groove)—"I was so shocked while reading Max O'Reilly's book to-day. He says that in America the girls do the proposing. Isn't it contemptible in him to print such a slander? Mercy! Why, any self-respecting American girl would die before she'd let a man know she loved him. The idea of our girls proposing!" Mr. Bashful—"Don't they?" "Of course, not." "I—I'm very sorry, because I new, never could pluck up courage to propose to a girl. I feel very blue to think a girl would rather die than—than let me know she wanted to marry me. I—I guess I'll go home. Good-by." "Oh! Oh! Oh! I nearly lost you. Sit down on this sofa, my darling!"—*New York Weekly.*

NEARLY everybody needs a good medicine at this season, to purify the blood and build up the system. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the most popular and successful spring medicine and blood purifier. It cures scrofula, all humors, dyspepsia, sick headache, that tired feeling.

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